

Quartzfest 2026

January 18-24

Hey Quartzfesters, here we are, just a little less than 3 months from Quartzfest 2026 kickoff and Don is hard at work putting our seminar and event schedule together. As of now, there remains time slots available for more seminars. If you're interested in giving a presentation during the week of Quartzfest, drop me a note and I'll pass your information on to Don. Seminars can vary on topic. Whether you want to give a talk about things you're doing with amateur radio, solar, batteries, your RV trip excursions, etc., we'd love to add you to the schedule. You can drop me a note at kristynweed@gmail.com.

I know we have musicians in the group who would love to join in the fun during our Thursday night Hootenanny. To prepare for this, go to <https://quartzfest.org/hootenanny-files> and download the song files so you're prepared. Also, plan on joining Russell Wednesday afternoon at his green Airstream bus for a "jam" session. His bus will be just south of area 3 flying the yellow "crab" flag.

Make sure you start collecting firewood now to bring with you to Quartzfest. Our seminar area 1 hosts our main fire ring and is where you'll drop off your firewood. If everyone brings a couple bundles of wood, we'll have plenty to last the entire week.

As we did last year and per BLM rules, and to help pay for our equipment storage, porta potties, insurance, website etc., and, BLM permit fees, we need to collect \$5.00 from you when you sign in with us. That's only about .75 cents per day. Speaking of signing in with us at our Welcome Tent, if you're a licensed amateur radio operator (not expired license), pick up your free Grand Prize ticket when you sign in. I don't know yet what our Grand Prize will be this year but I'm sure it'll be something awesome. Our Grand Prize drawing will be held during closing ceremony on January 24th and you must be present to win. Cutoff for getting Grand Prize tickets is noon Thursday January 22nd so make sure you get signed in at the welcome tent by then.

It looks like Rick W7RAP will be setting up his equipment for "cast iron cooking" Tuesday around noon for those of you who are bringing your cast iron Dutch

ovens with you. Pots that you prepare during cast iron cooking will be your contribution to the potluck.

Tuesday afternoon, directly following our abbreviated happy hour announcements will be our potluck dinner. For this, we'll need you to bring main dishes, salads, side dishes or desserts for all to enjoy. You'll also need to bring with you, flatware, plates, what you're drinking and a chair and/or table if you don't feel like eating with your plate on your lap. Trash cans for you to discard your trash will be provided. Over the past couple years we've had folks forget to pick up their serving utensils after the potluck and they've ended up in the lost 'n found. Lost and found is disposed of after the event. So, don't forget to pick yours up after the potluck.

Also Tuesday evening, we'll hold our 13th annual Pet Parade where folks bring their pets, dressed up or not, to the main fire ring to show them off. In the past we've had dogs, cats and even birds. So, bring your furry or feathered baby out and have some fun with them.

Wednesday will be our off-road trip. 4x4 vehicles with moderately high clearance are preferred. Although Frank KB7IQ will be in charge of this event, Rick and Charlie will also be leaders on this trip through the desert and we thank them for again taking on this task. The frequency they'll be on is 146.000MHz simplex. Make sure to program your radio before the event so time isn't lost programming while trying to meet the 9:am pull out time.

If you're new to amateur radio and not licensed yet or if you want to upgrade your current license, Stephen WM7X and crew, will be giving exams every day during Quartzfest. I believe the cost is \$15 to test. You'll need your FRN (FCC Federal registration number), a copy of your current license if you're upgrading and a photo ID. I believe that if you don't have your FRN, Stephen may be able to help you log on to the FCC website to register for that number.

Every year since 1997 when Quartzfest first began, we've held an antenna walkabout where a volunteer guide has taken a group around camp to look at unique antenna installations and listen to the antenna owners talk about their installations. Every year, that is, until Quartzfest 2025 where no one volunteered to lead this event. Saying that, I need a host to volunteer to take on this task this

year to carry on the tradition. If you're interested, drop me a note at kristynweed@gmail.com

For tent and car campers, we'll again have 4 Porta potties available for you. These potties are for tent and car campers and day visitors only. Please, if you have restroom facilities in your RV, please use them, not the porta potties. Of you need your black and gray tanks emptied during the week of Quartzfest, All Pro Pumping will be available to pump out your tanks twice during the week. Probably Tuesday and Thursday. Cost for RV pump out will be \$55 cash.

Our plan for setup of our welcome tent, PA systems, bulletin boards, etc., will be Friday the 16th of January. To accomplish these tasks, we'll need 5 pickup trucks with empty beds to go with me to the town of Quartzsite to our storage unit to pick up our equipment and bring it back down to our Quartzfest area for setup. We'll plan on leaving for town at 10:am that Friday morning. After we return we'll need folks to volunteer to help with setup.

Also, we'll tear down the tent and other equipment at 10:am Saturday morning in order to take everything back to storage right after closing ceremony and will need volunteers and trucks to help with this.

Make sure you plan on attending our Friday morning talks. First, at 9:am, we'll hear from our ARRL Arizona State section manager about what's going on in this ARRL section. Second, we'll hear from our ARRL southwestern division Director who's just returned from the ARRL board meeting on Newington CT.

As we've had since 2012, we'll again have our W7Q special event radio station on the air. We encourage you to drop by and make some HF contacts during the week. The special event station will be located about 50' East of the welcome tent.

That's about all for this newsletter. Lyn and I are looking forward to seeing y'all.

73,

Kris – KR1SS
Quartzfest Organizer

